

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 02693 201938Z
ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0304

UNCLAS KINGSTON 2693

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECRP, BEXP, JM
SUBJECT: ALUMINA PLANT AND PORT FOR SOUTH MANCHESTER

REF: A. STATE 062961, B. KINGSTON 1012, C. KINGSTON 0825

THIS CABLE IS IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN STATE
062961

1. PLANS FOR ANOTHER ALUMINA PLANT AND PORT FOR SOUTH MANCHESTER ARE GOING AHEAD. BUT BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS, THE DATES FOR COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND START OF PRODUCTION HAVE NOT BEEN DEFINED, DESPITE A PRONOUNCEMENT BY FORMER MINISTER OF MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES SENATOR DUDLEY THOMPSON.

2. THE PLAN CALLS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 600,000 TON ALUMINA PLANT AND A TWO-BERTH LOADING FACILITY. THE TWO-BERTH FACILITY IS ESTIMATED TO COST BETWEEN US\$80 MILLION AND US\$100 MILLION. THE OVERALL ESTIMATE WAS BETWEEN US\$600 AND US\$700 MILLION WHEN THE PROJECT WAS CONCEIVED IN 1974, BUT THIS COULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE BECAUSE OF INFLATION.

3. FINANCE IS TO COME FROM JAMAICA 51 PERCENT, MEXICO 29 PERCENT AND VENEZUELA 10 PERCENT. THE REMAINDER IS TO BE OBTAINED THROUGH LOANS FROM INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS. AN APPROACH ALSO HAS BEEN MADE TO A PRIVATE LONDON-BASED BANK.
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THE NAME JAVEMEX LTD. HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE COMPANY SET UP TO OPERATE THE PROJECT. IT IS A COMBINATION OF THE THREE COUNTRIES WHICH WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE EQUITY.

4. A HUNGARIAN FIRM HAS BEEN NAMED TO CARRY OUT DESIGN WORK FOR THE PLANT AND IT WOULD APPEAR THAT EQUIPMENT WILL BE COMING MAINLY FROM THAT SOURCE, ACCORDING TO AN AGREEMENT SIGNED

BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES RECENTLY.

5. MEXICO IS TO TAKE 300,000 TONS OF THE OUTPUT OF ALUMINA AND ALGERIA HAS CONTRACTED TO TAKE 150,000 TONS ANNUALLY OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD. THE REMAINDER OF THE PRODUCTION IS TO BE SOLD ON WORLD ALUMINA MARKETS.

6. SO FAR THE ONLY INFRASTRUCTURE WORK DONE IS PROVIDING WATER TO THE SIDE FOLLOWING A CEREMONIAL GROUNDBREAKING IN OCTOBER 1976.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
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